

From: DJ
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 11:16am
Subject: proposed settlement allows Microsoft to EXPAND its monopoly by giving it a stronger foothold in the education market

The proposed Microsoft settlement actually allows the company to expand its monopoly. By allowing Microsoft to give its software to schools, they will get a stronger foothold in the education environment, period. This is not a punishment, its a gift, kind of like punishing a child for not eating his broccoli by telling him he can only eat ice cream. How can this be allowed to happen? By the simplest logic it is absurd.

They should be broken up but if that won't happen and this settlement must go through then they should have to pay billions to schools and allow the schools to spend that money in ANY way they want. If they want to spend it on books or teacher's salaries or computers or repairs to buildings that should be the school's call. Second a series of stringent restrictions should be placed on the company so that they can not abuse their power. For instance they should not be able to advertise additional services on the desktop or with pop up windows or icons. MSN should not be the default page for Internet explorer. They should not be able to stop computer manufactures from selling alternative OSes through restrictive licensing. They should not be able to arbitrarily change their licensing scheme to rake in billions of extra dollars.

Please consider my thoughts as you go forward.

-DJ